

thereby leading to improved efficiency and better work culture. It is expected that the manpower will reduce by about 20000 by 2011-12 if the existing trend of separation of workers continues. However, the rationalization will be done mainly through normal superannuation of employees on attaining the age of 60 years as well as through Voluntary Separation Schemes.

Construction of steel plants at Burdwan

1639. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited is objecting construction of three steel plants at Burdwan's Andal as this would make inaccessible coal reserves from the above area;
- (b) if so, whether any consultation with the State of West Bengal have been held;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what action his Ministry is taking to set up steel plants in non-coal bearing areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Some of the areas for the proposed steel plants are likely to have coal seams below the mining leases of Eastern Coal Fields Limited (ECL), which is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited. Coal India Limited (CIL) has brought to the notice of State Government of West Bengal that some other proposed industrial projects, including some steel plants may have coal bearing areas, which is likely to have an adverse impact on coal reserves.

Government of West Bengal has informed CIL that henceforth, the State Government will not make any identification or allotment of land in coal bearing areas for any industrial purpose, without prior consultation with CIL.

(d) The allocation of land for setting up steel plants are decided by the concerned State Government and Ministry of Steel does not play any direct role in such matters.

Employment demand by displaced families

1640. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether families whose land has been acquired for steel plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu are agitating for employment of one person per family; and
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired an area of 3973.08 acres of land from 3002 families for Salem Steel Plant during the period 1970-83. Regarding the offer of employment to displaced families, the CPSUs are governed by Government guidelines and Court orders. The writ petitions filed by the displaced families at Salem were dismissed by a Single Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras with a direction that the individuals should get themselves sponsored by the